

wherein each flexible cell is formed of a first member, a second member, a third member and a fourth member, a first C-shaped loop disposed between the first member and the third member, a second C-shaped loop disposed between the second member and the fourth member, a first flexible connector disposed between the first member and the third member, and a second flexible connector disposed between the third member and the fourth member, and

wherein the cells in the at least one of the rows which is adapted to provide a different radial force is provided with first and third members that are shorter than the second and fourth members.

C1 55. (amended) An expandable stent according to claim 54, wherein the row of flexible cells at the distal end of the stent is adapted to provide a different radial force.

56. (amended) An expandable stent according to claim 54, wherein the row of flexible cells at the proximal end of the stent is adapted to provide a different radial force.

57. (amended) An expandable stent according to claim 54, wherein both the row of cells at the proximal end of the stent and the row of cells at the distal end of the stent are adapted to provide a different radial force.

Please add the following new claims:

58. A expandable stent, comprising: a plurality of interconnected flexible cells defining a stent having a proximal end, a central section and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the cells arranged in a plurality of interconnected flexible rows disposed along the longitudinal axis of the stent with at least one distal row disposed at the distal end of the stent and at least one proximal row disposed at the proximal end of the stent, wherein the cells disposed in the at least one distal row of the stent are adapted to exert greater radial force and are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

59. The stent of claim 58, wherein cells in the most distal row and the row proximal to the most distal row of the stent are adapted to exert greater radial force and are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

60. An expandable stent, comprising: a plurality of interconnected flexible cells defining a stent having a proximal end, a central section and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the cells arranged in a plurality of interconnected flexible rows disposed along the longitudinal axis of the stent with at least one distal row disposed at the distal end of the stent and at least one proximal row disposed at the proximal end of the stent, wherein the cells disposed in the at least one distal row of the stent are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

61. The stent of claim 60, wherein cells in the most distal row and the row proximal to the most distal row of the stent are adapted to be more flexible than the cells disposed in the rows in the central section.

62. An expandable stent, comprising:

a) a plurality of interconnected flexible cells defining a stent having a proximal end a central section and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the cells arranged in a plurality of interconnected flexible rows disposed along the longitudinal axis of the stent with at least one distal row disposed at the distal end of the stent and at least one proximal row disposed at the proximal end of the stent, each of the flexible cells including a first member, a second member, a third member and, a fourth member;

b) a first C-shaped loop disposed between the first member and the third member;

c) a second C-shaped loop disposed between the second member and the fourth member;

d) adjacent rows of cells connected to each other; and

e) wherein the cells of the at least one distal row are provided with first and third members that are shorter than the first and third members in the central section, and wherein the

at least one distal row is coupled to a next adjacent row in the proximal direction with flexible connectors that result in a more flexible connection than connections between cells in the rows of the stent in the central area.

63. The stent of claim 62, wherein cells in the most distal row and the row proximal to the most distal row of the stent are coupled to a next adjacent row in the proximal direction with flexible connectors that result in a more flexible connection than connections between cells in the rows of the stent in the central area.

64. An expandable stent, comprising: a plurality of flexible cells defining a stent having a proximal end and a distal end, the stent provided with means for imparting flexibility to the distal end of the stent that is greater than the flexibility of a portion of the stent proximal to the distal end.

65. A cylindrical stent, having a longitudinal axis, comprising:
a multiplicity of sets of strut members with the strut members being joined by loops and with adjacent sets of strut members being coupled each to the other by structures extending generally in the longitudinal direction, all forming circumferentially extending rows of cells,
said stent having a proximal end, a distal end and a center section,
said stent having two types of sets of strut members, a first type of set of strut members and a second type of set of strut members,
the first type of set of strut members having a shorter length as compared to the length of the second type of set of strut members,
at least some of the first type of set of strut members coupled to adjacent strut members by structures extending generally in the longitudinal direction which are more flexible than those coupling said second type of strut members.

66. The stent as recited in claim 65 where said first type of set of strut members has a length in the longitudinal direction of the stent that is less than the length in the longitudinal direction of said second type of set of strut members.

67. The stent as recited in claim 66 where said stent is a radially self-expanding stent.

68. A cylindrical stent, having a longitudinal axis, comprising:

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a multiplicity of sets of strut members with the strut members joined by loops and with adjacent sets of strut members being coupled each to the other by structures extending generally in the longitudinal direction forming circumferentially extending rows of cells,

said stent having a proximal end, a distal end and a center section located between said proximal and distal ends,

said stent having two types of sets of strut members, a first type of set of strut members and a second type of set of strut members,

the first type of set of strut members having a shorter length as compared to the length of the second type of set of strut members,

the first type of set of strut members coupled to adjacent strut members by structures extending generally in the longitudinal direction which are more flexible than those coupling said second type of strut members.

69. The stent as recited in claim 68 where said first type of set of strut members has a length in the longitudinal direction of said stent that is less than the length in the longitudinal direction of said second type of set of strut members.

REMARKS

Claims 48 and 51-69 remain in this application, with claims 58-69 added by this amendment. Claims have been amended

The Examiner rejected claims 48 and 51-57 based on obvious-type double patenting, as obvious over U.S. Patent 5,807,404, claims 1-28. A terminal disclaimer is enclosed to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner also rejected claims 48 and 51-57 as anticipated by a patent to Simon et al. or a patent to Kleshinski et al., both having essentially the same relevant disclosure. In one embodiment, that of Fig. 4, the cells at the end may be made smaller to obtain a greater radial bias.

Claim 54 has the limitation that: